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Met Office supports the UK as cold spell continues

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Millions of people across the UK are likely to see additional help with fuel bills as the cold weather continues to affect the country.

The Met Office has been working closely with the Department for Work and Pensions to ensure that vulnerable people are prepared for the prolonged spell of cold weather, and they are given support to meet the costs of additional heating ahead of the cold weather.

Although not as cold as it has been, the Met Office is forecasting that low daytime temperatures and overnight frosts will continue through this week with the risk icy roads.

Dave Robinson, Head of Government Services at the Met Office said: "We are expecting the cold weather to continue with the coldest conditions across southern and eastern parts of the UK.

"Our forecasts are helping to support vulnerable people across the UK. Support of the Cold Weather Payment scheme, the Cold Weather Alert Service and Healthy Outlook®, our forecasts for COPD sufferers for the Department of Health, are all helping to keep the UK healthy throughout the cold spell."

Secretary of State for Work and Pensions James Purnell said: "We don't want people to worry about turning up their heating when it's cold. That is why we've trebled the Cold Weather Payment to £25, to put money in the pockets of the people who need it most. Millions of vulnerable people and pensioners are now in line for this extra help after the recent cold snap."

As of Monday, Cold Weather Payments have been triggered at 48 of the country's 76 weather stations. With the cold weather continuing across the country, payments are being made from Aviemore in Scotland to Bedford in southern England, as temperatures fell as low as -11 °C.

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